

February 19, 2015

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Drinking Water Protection Section
Mail Code WTR-3-2
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Nancy Rumrill

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

We are writing to urge you, in the strongest words available, to deny the issuance of a Class III Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area Permit for Florence Copper, Inc.

We firmly believe that the injection of any substance into our groundwater, on which we depend for our very existence, could only be harmful to the health and well being of those in the vicinity. The town of Florence is a small town of about 8,500. We reside just about 10 miles away in an area called the San Tan Valley, a loose community of over 80,000 souls. Our proximity to the water aquifer which would be affected is too close for comfort, by far.

Further, considering that the substance to be used for injection is SULPHURIC ACID, it seems reasonable and prudent to assume that no good could come of such action, and that the possibility of disaster would be tremendous.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours very truly,

 
Mark and Carol Braly

Supervisor Pete Rios
District 1



County Supervisors Association (CSA)

Central Arizona Association of
Governments

February 17, 2015

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attention: Nancy Rumrill

Dear Ms. Rumrill:

This letter of comment is being submitted regarding the proposed issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit for Florence Copper, Inc.

I understand that the permit, if issued, will allow Florence Copper, Inc to construct and operate an in-situ copper recovery facility near the Town of Florence. The proposed permit would authorize Florence Copper, Inc. to operate a small, approximate 2 acre Production Test Facility (PTF) for a period of up to 2 years, followed by post-closure monitoring of up to 5 years following closure operations.

From a fiscal perspective, there is little doubt that should Florence Copper, Inc. begin full scale operations, the project would provide much needed employment to the local communities as well as a positive economic benefit to the town, county and state. The anticipated employment impact is 240 direct and indirect jobs on-site, 480 jobs in Pinal County and nearly 800 jobs in Arizona. These head-of-household wage jobs, provided by the mining industry are particularly important to rural Arizona. The projected fiscal benefit of \$68.4 million dollars in revenue to the Town of Florence, \$2.1 billion in economic activity for Pinal County and \$3.4 billion in economic activity for the State of Arizona, would provide much needed revenue.

Most importantly, given the concerns raised by local community leaders and residents, about adverse effects on the local water supply, this test facility provides the opportunity for Florence Copper, Inc. to show the local community as well as the State of Arizona, that they can operate safely and without causing any adverse effects on the local groundwater.

The Town of Florence and their residents deserve to know definitively whether or not this project will be operated safely and pose no risk to their drinking water. This small scale production test facility allows this to be determined before a full scale production is considered for approved.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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P.O. Box 700 Mammoth, Az 85618 T 520-866-7830 T 520-487-2941 F 520-866-7838
www.pinalcountyaz.gov

For these reasons, I support the issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control Permit (UIC) to Florence Copper, Inc. for their Production Test Facility (PTF).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Rios" followed by a stylized flourish.

Pete Rios
Pinal County Supervisor Dist. 1

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